



Cheswick Green Parish Council

Mrs. Marie Zizzi
Clerk to the Council
Cheswick Green Village Hall
Cheswick Way, Cheswick Green
Solihull B90 4JA

Tel: 01564 700168
clerk@cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk
www.cheswickgreen-pc.gov.uk

CHESWICK GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 9th February 2023 7pm Cheswick Green Village Hall

Present: Cheswick Green Parish Councillors: Simon Coles, Margaret Gosling (Vice Chairman), Aimee Moloney and Mick Swain (Chair).

5 members of the public

Marie Zizzi, Clerk

195. Apologies for Absence and to approve, if thought fit, the reasons if any given, for absence from the meeting.

195.1 An apology was given on behalf of Michelle Smith – this was accepted.

196. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.

Note: Cllr. Coles and Cllr. Moloney are members of CG RA.

197. Public Participation (15 Minutes).

197.1 It was noted Borough Cllr. Ken Hawkins, had sent a letter to residents about parking by the school, asking for photographs. Cllr. Coles said he had sent Cllr. Hawkins photographs and pointed out that if the parking outside the school was not policed, what was in place was a waste of time.

197.1.1 It was noted an email had been send to Mr. Paul Tovey (*SMBCs Head of Highways*), regarding parking/fines, no reply had been received.

Action item: Clerk to chase for a reply.

197.1.2 Cllr. Coles said he had seen a Traffic Warden on site over the last few weeks. It was stated the situation on Cheswick Way had improved, when a Traffic Warden regularly handed out fines.

197.1.3 Cllr. Gosling spoke about the way staff parked on Saxon Wood Road, being very dangerous, as it prevented drivers from being able to see.

197.1.4 A resident referred to parking on Briarwood Close, Glenwood Drive and Foxland Close, causing a stalemate, as vehicles were parked in the middle of the road. It was noted a Traffic Warden had walked down Foxland Close. There were comments about vehicles churning up grass verges.

197.1.5 Cllr. Coles said a review was due later this month.

197.2 A resident from Heron Close said they had lived there for 25 years, they referred to the hedge by the swings being cut and being told this was to do with Dog Wood. They spoke about trees being cut down 10 years ago and residents being asked to contribute £30 for trees to be planted. The person stated that since then, all these trees had been cut down.

197.2.1 Cllr. Gosling said the only trees that were removed were the ones that had died, she added some of these had been replaced; only between 4 and 6 trees were removed, as they were dead.

197.2.2 It was stated these trees had created a barrier between the Recreation Ground and the back gardens of the residents of Heron Close. The resident said since the hedge had been cut, gardens had been encroached, the police were aware.

197.2.3 Cllr. Coles referred to the Parish Councils grounds maintenance specification, he said brambles were to be removed in November, the Parish Council had a new contractor

now, last year that area of the park looked quite bad, it was cut back to give the area a chance to regenerate.

197.2.4 The resident referred to two people climbing over the fence into back gardens, possibly two weeks after the area had been strimmed. Cllr. Coles said there was an issue with youths on the Recreation Ground. There were further comments about this and antisocial behaviour.

197.2.5 Cllr. Swain said the grounds maintenance contractor had suggested planting some pyracantha, as it was very prickly. There were comments about whether this would survive in such as swampy area. It was stated there was already some pyracantha there.

197.2.6 It was pointed out there had been an increase in the number of youths coming to the park, car loads were coming from Shirley and Earlswood. The resident referred to two cars being tampered with. It was stated this was a national problem, cars were being stolen.

197.2.7 There were comments about drugs in the park and about a residents dog that had been poisoned by cannabis, it was stated this could have been eaten by a child. It was pointed out the police were always informed about any incidents.

197.2.8 Cllr. Moloney said she was the co-ordinator for Street Watch, there were twice weekly conversations with the police. She said if residents could provide dates and times of any incidents, this was very helpful, as it enabled them to build a picture of when things were taking place, she referred to this including people arriving/sitting in cars. It was stated people were coming from Shirley to sell drugs here, and that the police were not interested in the people smoking drugs, they were interested in those that were selling the drugs.

197.3 Cllr. Coles said car crime was a national issue, in relation to drugs they were aware of this and working with the police, regarding people climbing over the back fences, he could see no reason why the Parish Council could not plant some more pyracantha. Cllr. Coles and Cllr. Swain said they would take a look at the area. The resident said he was sorry to complain as generally the Parish Council did a good job.

198. To resolve to accept the Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 12th January 2023 (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Moloney, seconded Cllr. Gosling – the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

199. To receive a report on the finances of the Council and to approve any payments made since last meeting and any payments to be made (circulated to Parish Cllrs. with the agenda).

Payee	Reason	Total
DM Payroll Services Ltd.	Administration of payroll second half of 2022/23 financial year.	£ 90.00
M. Zizzi	12 x torches for Street Watch	£191.40
M. Zizzi	Reimbursement for McFee total protection Antivirus for laptop 12 months	£ 7.49
TMC Limited	Removal of one noticeboard and to install 3	£714.00
Countrywide GM	Grounds maintenance January 2023	£786.89
M. Zizzi	Reimbursement for Instant ink 25/12-25/01	£ 16.49
Vision ICT	Hosted email account April 2023 – March 2024	£ 21.60
SLCC	Clerks annual membership	£187.00

More in confidential section.

Petty cash £90.98

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Swain, seconded Cllr. Gosling; all payments approved.

200. To consider planning applications and local development including Cheswick Place and Blythe Valley (BV).

200.1 There were no planning applications.

200.2 It was stated people were complaining on Facebook about BV; as the developers were late with building, about flooding, substandard quality of housing, about parking and timescales.

201. To discuss having an Events Committee/Working Party.

201. It was noted any Committee of a Parish Council was required to abide by the statutory rules, these did not apply to a Working Party/Group, which could be more informal. It was suggested to agree a budget for any events and for the Events Group to give reports to the Full Council, it was agreed to organise events in the most economical way.

202. To discuss progress with Cheswick Green School expansion.

202.1 It was stated it was a mess; there were comments about a perfectly good shed being demolished; about a buried drainage tank at the back of the school and about glitter which had been spilt getting everywhere.

202.2 It was pointed out that despite the school doubling in size, the hall was not doubling in size, it was queried how the children would fit in there for lunch, it was suggested there would be staggered groups.

202.3 It was stated it was currently not safe for children to play there, there was nothing there at present for the children, due to all the fencing.

202.4 Cllr. Swain spoke about the level set by government in relation to space being so low, that the school was way above the legal limit required; he said space to pupil ratios had changed over the years.

202.5 There were comments about the school adding three days to the summer holidays; Cllr. Coles said if it was to breakup three days earlier, this could result in cheaper holidays, however some people would still be working. It was stated the school was returning three days later; this was for the building work to be finished and for the teachers to go in and prepare classrooms. It was queried if the school would be ready by September, as there was a lot of work to be done.

202.6 A resident asked if the entry to the school would be from Cheswick Way and the exit via Creynolds Lane, it was stated that was not the current plan.

202.7 It was stated the bus was late every day and it only had nine children on it.

202.8 It was pointed out that the Parish Council had highlighted everything that would happen in relation to this expansion, it had done everything it possibly could to stop this taking place, including speaking at the Planning Committee meeting.

203. To approve the draft Recreation Committee minutes from Friday 18th March 2022.

Resolved; proposed Cllr. Coles, seconded Cllr. Gosling – the minutes were to be signed.

204. To discuss proposal for new play equipment for the Recreation Ground.

204.1 Cllr. Moloney spoke about meeting with a representative from Ten-group and receiving a quote. She said this company had seen the Kompan proposed design on Facebook and had asked if it could quote.

204.2 There were comments about both the Kompan and the Ten-group proposals.

204.3 A resident commented about considering shading for when it was hot; it was noted the current equipment was metal which got hot; some of the proposed new equipment was a form of composite.

204.4 It was stated the Kompan design was better value, as there was more additional equipment, and it was more in line with what members of the public and Parish Council was thinking of having.

Action item: Cllr. Moloney to ask Kompan to adjust the quote to incorporate something for children with disabilities.

204.5 It was stated that roundabouts which were wheelchair friendly, were not well used, as they were too heavy unless a wheelchair was present.

204.6 It was noted the play area was well used and spending money on it was a good use of funds.

204.7 There were comments and a discussion about various items, existing and proposed; and about the idea of having a trampoline which was sunk into the ground and flooding.

204.8 Cllr. Swain referred to the timeline on this; he said they appeared to be happy to go with Kompan; they would not have three quotes however, having read reviews from both Dickens Heath and Hockley Heath Parish Councils; it would seem Kompan was the one we want to use.

204.9 It was agreed to obtain one further quote from Kompan and to get this formally approved at the next meeting.

205. To discuss what to do for the Coronation – May 2023.

205.1 Cllr. Moloney said their next big event was the Coronation; a deposit had been paid by the RA for bouncy castles, inflatable slides and an assault course. She was not sure if the deposit included skittles. She said the Zorb's had not been booked yet, as it was queried whether these were value for money, the cost was £1000 to £1200, for 4 Zorb's including people to man this and a full course, it was stated this would be popular.

205.2 Cllr. Moloney said despite completing the form for St. John's Ambulance service in November, they could not support the event; she had looked at other medical firms the costs were in excess of £650. Cllr. Moloney said she had spoken with someone involved with the Brownies who was a Rapid Responder; they could get two paramedics and an ambulance from SWS Medica for £250; there were no objections to this going ahead. Cllr. Moloney said they could provide the medics with some food and soft drinks

205.3 Cllr. Moloney said the event would be from 2 until 8pm, with the latter part including the open-mic team. She said the BBQ would be run by Cllr. Coles, as he had a Food Hygiene certificate. It was noted local youth groups (Brownies), had offered to run a couple of fairground type stalls.

205.4 Cllr. Gosling asked if there would be tea/coffee; it was noted she had made the tea/coffee at the Jubilee event, it was suggested she could do this or to ask the U3A. It was stated there could be a tuck shop inside, as the BBQ would be outside. It was felt a bar was not needed.

205.5 Cllr. Swain said he would see what involvement the U3A wanted, it could be they wanted to do something themselves.

205.6 Cllr. Swain spoke about the suggestion from the Crochet Fairy to have a treasure trail; Cllr. Coles and Moloney thought this was a good idea to have around the park/Village Hall.

206. To receive any reports from Chair, Councillors and/or the Clerk.

206.1 Cllr. Moloney and Swain had attended the recent Solihull Area Meeting (SAM); Cllr. Moloney said there was lots of discussion about planning, green belt land, flooding and battery facilities. Cllr. Swain made some comments about the SAM meetings; he said WALC was encouraging councils to attend.

206.2 The Clerk had circulated a draft agenda for the Annual Statutory Meeting; it was noted this needed to be signed and displayed at the next PC meeting.

206.3 It was stated leaves blowing from the Village Green onto Spinney Drive, were causing a problem. It was stated this was also an issue on Foxland Close as well. It was noted the road/kerb on Spinney Drive had been blocked with leaves.

206.3.1 It was stated SMBC no longer did anything in relation to leaves, it hadn't for a couple of years.

Action item: Clerk to contact SMBC and enquire if anything was carried out in relation to leaves.

206.3.2 A resident spoke about dry leaves resulting in a fire and two cars being burnt out at 11:15 one evening. They said the leaves were a fire hazard and a danger to pedestrians.

206.3.3 It was stated this was not a problem on Saxon Wood Road or at the Mount. It was pointed out it was an issue around the village, there were less lawns now where leaves would turn to mulch, this could be why it was considerably worse this year, as well as due to the hot summer last year.

206.3.4 Cllr. Swain said every 5-6 years there were more leaves/acorns/fruit from trees; it was a cycle he had been told about.

206.3.5 There were more comments on this, it was felt this needed to be thought about, to see what could be done to reduce the amount of leaves; to possibly clear some areas and to get a quote to remove leaves that blow from the Village Green. It was noted the grounds maintenance specification stated to blow the fallen leaves off Greenside onto the Village Green in late September to November, it was felt this should have been removed, as it was useless if they just blew back.

206.3.6 It was stated the company the Parish Council used did a very good job.

206.3.7 It was stated there were always some leaves from the Green and the prevailing wind, however this year the quantity had vastly increased, the leaves had been a foot deep; the resident spoke about going out one morning and the amount of leaves when

they had returned. The resident had filled their green bin with leaves on one occasion. It was agreed the Parish Council would see what could be done.

207. Update/report from Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC).

207.1 Cllr. Swain said the VHMC had a new booking clerk now (*who was present at this meeting*). He said there had been three applicants, they had all been good people.

207.2 It was noted the first 'Warm Hub' event held in the Village Hall had worked well, even though only a few people had attended.

208. To receive a report/update from Cheswick RA.

208.1 Cllr. Coles said it had been pretty concluded about what would happen, however since then he had received an email from a member of the RA; who now did not think what was planned was a good idea; he read the email.

208.2 Cllr. Coles said a RA meeting would take place on 21st February and a simple vote would be taken.

209. To discuss issues raised with SMBC.

209.1 It was reiterated an email had been sent to Mr. Paul Tovey, regarding parking in the bus stop; a reply to this was required.

209.2 Cllr. Gosling spoke about cars parking in the bus stop; she said there were no timetables at a bus stop despite two buses using this stop, for over a month now. Cllr. Coles said the one opposite his house had been done now.

209.2.1 There were comments about 'not in use' signs; it was stated there was a need for bus stops to be labelled appropriately; and that a bus had been in the middle of the road due to parked cars.

209.2.2 There were comments about the A9 service; Kingshurst – Blythe Valley going through Monkspath; it was stated the company was very short of drivers, the links from Solihull to Kingshurst did not run due to this. It was stated there was no space for the bus by the Stables and that the services were not being used, because people did not know about them, by the time people did start using them, they would be taken off.

210. To discuss CGPCs Action Plan.

210.1 Noted.

211. To consider and resolve any action(s) in relation to items of correspondence received (*issued to Parish Councillors with the agenda*).

211.1 Cllr. Swain read an email he had received from a member of the VHMC; in relation to having a Forum for community health; to have various groups such as a parent and toddlers, for people dealing with/caring for people with dementia, a community café and to feed children in the school holidays. Feedback on this suggestion included; it was difficult to get volunteers or people to run these types of groups, that in relation to some of these things specialists were needed; that the village was not big enough to support everything; much would depend on when the Village Hall was available. A resident spoke about their experience with a Dementia group, which separated the person with Dementia from their Carer and putting the Carers together, she said this was not what Carers wanted; they wanted some time for themselves.

212. To discuss and resolve any actions in relation to the ongoing CGPC action list (*issued to Parish Councillors with the agenda*).

212.1 Cllr. Gosling spoke about the internet; she said some people used Virgin, the only other option was Openreach/BT – these companies were in the same group; they had a universal agreement. She referred to switching off the copper; She said Cheswick Green was on the Earlswood exchange, Cheswick Place and Creynolds Lane were both on 0121 exchanges. She said originally what they had was the most advanced in the country. She said copper had been used to the exchange box, but then from the box to houses, aluminium had been used and this was rotting, which was why it kept breaking down. There were comments about the possibility of the company trying to do something via mobiles.

212.1.1 Cllr. Gosling said there had been a meeting with a Director from Openreach; nothing had been done; the Parish Council had contacted the MP, there had been changes to his staff; she said she thought they needed to back to the MP and to the top of Openreach, as the situation was not satisfactory.

212.1.2 Cllr. Gosling spoke about approaching resident’s and getting their support; contacting CityFibre, people relying on landlines. Cllr. Coles queried whether what was happening, was to force change; there were comments about emergency contact devices working via landlines and boxes used to boost signals for vulnerable people. It was felt this matter needed to be sorted out.

212.2 Cllr. Moloney said the car park was owned by three organisations; the Parish Council, the brewery (Stonegate) and the Carver Trust (owner of the shops). She said a meeting had been arranged with all three groups attending on Friday 3rd March.

211.2.1 It was noted someone had half heartedly filled the potholes; it was not known who had done this, it was stated this was not helpful. There were comments about the brewery and the Carver Trust sending people to carry out a survey; it was queried whether the surveys had been done before the potholes had been filled. It was suggested to check the CCTV footage to see who had filled in the potholes.

213. Agenda items for next meeting.

213.1 SMBC litter bins.

214. To resolve that due to the special nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

215. To discuss and resolve any actions regarding any items of correspondence or matters considered confidential.

215.1 There was nothing to discuss.

216. PAYE, payroll and Pension Scheme.

216.1 Details in confidential section.

Meeting closed 9:15pm

Signed

Dated